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National report submitted in accordance with paragraph 5 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 16/21*

Nigeria

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I. Background

1. The report presents efforts by Nigeria to fulfil its voluntary commitments to the Human Rights Council and accepted recommendations during the Universal Periodic Review Second Cycle in 2013.

2. Nigeria accepted 172 recommendations during the second cycle review and promised to examine 34 recommendations and provide response at the twenty-fifth session of the Human Rights Council. Most of the recommendations have to do with the abolition of death sentence. Nigeria rejected ten recommendations concerning decriminalization of offences relating to sexual orientation or gender identity. The accepted recommendations have been grouped into thirty-six clusters to simplify the report. Efforts at addressing the concerns are found in section D of this report.

3. The report also presents significant developments, achievements and challenges in the implementation of Nigeria's voluntary commitments to the Human Rights Council.

Methodology and consultation process

4. The Federal Government of Nigeria constituted an inclusive inter-ministerial National Committee on Universal Periodic Review (UPR). The Committee adopted a multi-tiered and participatory approach in producing the report. The Committee had representatives of government, civil society and the academia made extensive consultations with relevant stakeholders in the country. It made use of several background reports and submissions from Ministries, Departments and Agencies.

II. Developments since the second review

5. Strengthening of civil-military cooperation in the fight against terrorism, insurgency and other internal security operations through:

(a) Review of training curriculum for the military and law enforcement agencies to include modules and information on international human rights, international humanitarian law on civilian protection during internal security operations. Documents such as Civil-Military Cooperation Theoretical Training curriculum for Nigerian Defence Academy and Civil Military Cooperation Doctrine for the Armed Forces and other security agencies were produced;

(b) Government respected the award of compensation and payment of One hundred and Thirty- Five Million Naira made by the National Human Rights Commission in favour of the families and victims of an unlawful killings and attacks on some commercial motorcycle operators in Apo, Abuja;

(c) Establishment of directorate of Civil-Military Relations headed by two star Generals in the offices of the Chief of Defence Staff, Chief of Army Staff, Chief of Air Staff and Chief of Naval Staff;

(d) Appointment of a Human Rights Adviser in the Office of Chief of Defence Staff;

(e) Establishment of Human Rights desk in the Army Headquarters and divisions of the Nigerian Army;

(f) Production and dissemination of the revised Code of Conduct and Rules of Engagement for Armed Forces to armed forces personnel during internal security operations.

6. Constitution of Presidential Committee on the Northeast Initiative (PCNI) to coordinate all interventions and oversee the recovery and rehabilitation of the Northeast. The PCNI mandate among other things is to promote synergy among all Humanitarian and development actors engaged in the region.

7. Development of National Policy Framework and Action Plan on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism in November, 2017. The Policy Framework and Action Plan were put together by a technical working group comprising government departments and agencies, faith-based organizations, trade unions, professional bodies, political parties and civil society organizations.

8. Reforms of the criminal justice system through the enactment of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act in 2015. The law strengthens procedural system in the areas of investigation, prosecution, and delay in trial of cases, protection of witnesses and judges and to ensure prompt dispensation of justice.

9 Also, the Fourth Alteration Act, 2018 amended the Constitution to provide for timelines within which to hear and determine pre-election matters. Furthermore, the "Not Too Young to Run"Act was enacted to open the political space for Youth participation in the political process by reducing the age limit to contest.

Implementation of National Cyber-Security Policy and Strategy

10. The Cyber-Security Strategy (NCSS) was developed in 2014 to define the nation's readiness to safeguard and prepare Nigeria in advance for global economic competitiveness in cyberspace. A key component of the NCSS is the provision for Data Protection and Privacy as contained in Section 4 (4) (1) of NCSS.

11. The Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA) has taken steps aimed at realizing the objectives of data protection and privacy in Nigeria. Also, following the passage of the European Union General Data Protection Regulation on 25 May 2018, the Nigeria Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA), commenced the process of reviewing the existing draft guidelines for Data Protection, which was issued in 2017 as part of NITDA's regulatory mandate for the ICT sector in Nigeria. Additionally, NCC issued the Lawful Interception of Communications Regulations in 2015.

12. The Act provides for data traffic to be kept by service providers. Thus, NCC set up a Working Group comprising representatives from ONSA, Mobile Network Operators (MNOs), Internet Service Providers (ISFs) and EFCC on 2 May 2018 to determine modalities for data retention by MNOs and ISPs. The Nigeria Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA), has conducted several workshops across the 6 geo-political zones in Nigeria aimed at equipping citizens with fundamental knowledge as well as share best practices on staying safe in cyberspace.

Countering Violent Extremism Programme (CVE)

13. The programme aims at stemming the tide of radicalization in the country, reducing violent activities, change the behaviour of violent extremists and promoting core national values. The programme has three streams:

(a) Counter Radicalization;

(b) De-radicalization; and

(c) Strategic Communication.

14. The following projects and activities were carried out under the CVE programme:

(a) Education Summit to raise awareness of the importance of education as a tool for CVE;

(b) Piloting creative curriculum that encouraged critical thinking and logical reasoning;

(c) Positive Voices Campaigns to promote community champions that stand up for tolerance and national identity;

(d) Mapping of religious centres and faith-based organizations (FBOs);

(e) Identification and training of imams to present moderate Islamic views;

(f) Identification, registration and training of FBOs, CSOs and NGOs to aid the overarching goals of countering violent extremism;

(g) Town hall and community dialogue meetings to improve internal community relations and relationship with the state;

(h) Survey of economic activities and employment and income generation schemes for communities;

(i) Reintegration of reformed extremists to their families and communities;

(j) Media initiatives that form a counter-narrative.

National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights

15. Nigeria is finalizing its National Action Plan on Human Rights and Business. This Action Plan is developed in response to the call by the United Nations to address negative impact of business on the realization and enjoyment of human rights and promote mutually beneficial relationships between businesses and the communities where they operate. Stakeholders have produced a draft document to be adopted by the Federal Government.

16. The Human Rights and Business Action Plan enumerates the commitments and obligations of government to protect human rights by outlining actionable items to address business related human rights abuses focusing on stakeholders identification and analysis, employment matters, casualization and contract employment, land acquisition, environmental matters, compensation, gender sensitivity and integration, community development and consultations, security, conflict resolution, reporting and monitoring compliance among others.

Establishment of an Inter-Ministerial Technical Working Group to develop a database of missing persons in Nigeria

17. To have a credible and accurate data on the number of persons killed or missing as a result of violent crimes, the federal government constituted a national technical committee on the establishment and management of a database of missing persons in June 2016.

18. The database is an independent mechanism aimed at responding to the rights of affected families to know the fate and whereabouts of their missing relations. The technical committee is working on certain documents necessary for the establishment of the database. These include Standard Operating Procedures, Case Entry and Consent Forms for data collection.

Justice sector reforms

19. Since the last review, Nigeria has implemented many initiatives to improve the effectiveness, accessibility, accountability, transparency and fairness of the justice system. Some of the initiatives include:

(a) Development of justice sector reform action plans;

(b) Establishment of judicial research and training centres;

(c) Review and production of simplified court users guide;

(d) Training in IT for justice sector officials including court staff, investigators, prosecutors, police and prison staff;

(e) Development and production of a National Legal Aid Strategy;

(f) Development and production of National Policy on Prosecution and Code of Conduct and Prosecutorial Guidelines for Federal Prosecutors.

Social and economic reforms

20. Nigeria committed to improving the social and economic standard of its people. To actualise this, Government had developed a social and economic master plan known as Economic Recovery and Growth Plan covering 2017–2020 (ERGP).

21. The Economic Recovery and Growth Plan addresses the SDGs three dimensions of economic, social and environmental sustainability issues. The vision of the ERGP is sustained inclusive growth through increased national productivity and achieving sustainable diversification of production to grow the economy for maximum welfare of the citizens.

22. The plan includes massive investment in the people, health and education sectors to meet the international targets set by the SDGs. The ERGP will improve the accessibility, affordability and quality of health care and rolls out the National Health Insurance Scheme across the entire country.

III. Implementation of accepted recommendations in the 2nd cycle of the review

Recommendations 135.1-6: Sign and ratify outstanding human rights treaties and optional protocols

23. During the period under review, Government has ratified the following human rights instruments:

(a) The Maritime Labour Convention;

(b) The Paris Climate Change Agreement; and

(c) The African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention).

Recommendations 135.7–10, 14–25, 28–31: Incorporate in national legislation the international human rights instruments to which Nigeria has acceded

24. Nigeria had enacted the following laws to incorporate the international human rights instruments to which Nigeria is a party:

(a) Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Act, 2015 (VAPP);

(b) Administration of Criminal Justice Act, 2015 (ACJA);

(c) Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Law Enforcement and Administration Act, 2015;

(d) HIV/AIDS (Anti-Discrimination) Act 2014;

(e) Anti-Torture Act 2017;

(f) Compulsory Treatment and Care for Victims of Gunshot Act, 2017;

(g) National Institute for Cancer Research and Treatment (Establishment) Act, 2017;

(h) Niger Delta Development Commission (Establishment) Amendment Act, 2017.

Recommendation 135.9: Reinforce anti-corruption laws

25. Government has taken several measures to strengthen the fight against corruption. These include the following:

(a) Harmonization of the three Anti- Corruption strategies (documents) namely; the Nigeria Anti-corruption Strategy, the National Anti-Corruption Action Plan and the National Strategy to Combat Corruption to produce the National Anti-Corruption Strategy Document;

(b) Nigeria joined the Open Government Partnership (OGP) in 2016 to make government open, accountable, and responsive to citizens. The alliance is a partnership between government ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs), working in collaboration with civil society on specific commitments. It is geared towards fiscal transparency;

(c) The Administration of Criminal Justice Act, 2015 was enacted to eliminate delays and fast-tracking trial of corruption;

(d) The Proceeds of Crime Bill, 2017 is pending in the National Assembly. The Bill if passed into law will complement the existing legal and institutional frameworks for the fight against corruption;

(e) The Whistle Blower Policy of the Federal Government is a great incentive to citizens to report acts and hidden proceeds of corruption. A bill in this regard had been passed by the National Assembly;

(f) Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, Act, 2017 was passed to combat corruption and improve the image of the country by:

(i) Assisting Nigeria to repatriate looted funds and other proceeds of crime in foreign countries;

(ii) Enhancing effective prosecution of border crimes;

(iii) Enabling Nigeria to obtain evidence, identify suspects and witness.

(g) The Treasury Single Account ensures the absence of multiple banking arrangements and prevent funds from being easily diverted;

(h) Bank Verification Numbers strengthens the security of banking transaction. It exposes proceeds of crime, particularly corruption and financial crimes hidden with pseudonyms in the banking system;

(i) Separation of the Nigeria Financial Intelligence Unit (NFIU) from the Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC) and the signing of the Executive Order No. 6 of 2018 on the Preservation of Assets connected with Serious Corruption and other Relevant Offences.

Recommendations 135.21, 100–105: Abolish female genital mutilation

26. Section 34 (1) (a) of the Constitution protects the dignity of human person by stating that every individual is entitled to respect to the dignity of his or her person and accordingly no person shall be subjected to inhuman or degrading treatment. Nigeria has implemented this recommendation through the enactment of the Violence against Persons (Prohibition) Act 2015(VAPPA). This Act eliminates violence in private and public life; prohibit all forms of violence including physical, sexual, psychological, domestic violence; harmful traditional practices; discrimination against persons and provide maximum protection and effective remedies for victims and punishment of offenders.

Recommendation 135.21: Ensure access to justice for women who are victims of violence

27. The Constitution guarantees access to justice for everyone, and provides for pro bono legal assistance to indigent persons in the enforcement of their fundamental rights. VAPPA is already a law that is being implemented in Nigeria. This law provides access to justice for women who are victims of violence, ensures that perpetrators of the crime are punished and remedies are provided to the victims and those affected.

Recommendations 135.32–34: Continue to strengthen the capacity of human rights institutions

28. Government increased the budget of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) to N3 Billion Naira. Government is not interfering in the operation of the human rights institutions including respect for its decision and award. Government paid the award of compensation in the sum of One hundred and Thirty- Five Million Naira as directed made by the National Human Rights Commission for families/ victims of an unlawful killings and attacks on some commercial motorcycle operators in Apo, Abuja. Further, since August 2015 the National Human Rights Commission has been holding regular civil-military dialogue. The objectives of the Dialogue include:

(a) Improving awareness of respect for human rights by the military;

(b) Prevention of human rights violations by the armed forces during internal security operations;

(c) Speedy investigation and resolution of allegation of human rights violations by military personnel including holding perpetrators accountable;

(d) Mainstreaming respect for human rights in military operations;

(e) Providing a sustainable platform for national and international human rights organizations to constructively engage the Nigerian armed forces.

29. Nigeria is finalizing its second National Action Plan (NAP) for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights covering 2017 to 2022. The second NAP document was put together through broad consultations. The policy document sets out a road map to build a better human rights culture and by giving effect to Nigeria's international human rights commitments and obligations. The document contains emerging issues such as:

(a) Rights of Persons with disabilities;

(b) Rights of Internally Displaced Persons;

(c) Human Rights and Business;

(d) Terrorism and insurgency;

(e) Racial Discrimination, xenophobia and intolerance.

30. Nigeria is also in the process of finalizing its National Action Plan on Human Rights and Business. This Action Plan is being developed in response to the call by the United Nations on member states to address negative impact of business on the realization and enjoyment of human rights and promote mutually beneficial relationships between business and the communities where they operate.

31. The Human Rights and Business Action Plan enumerates the commitment and obligations of government to protect human rights by outlining actionable items by the Federal Government to address business related human rights abuses.

Recommendations 135.35–43: Ensure cooperation with international human rights system of the United Nations to protect and promote human rights:

32. Nigeria continues to support the mechanism of the Universal Peer Review monitoring system. Areas of cooperation between Nigeria and international human rights system of the United Nations since the last review in 2013 include the preparation of the Nation Action Plan and Guiding Principles on business and human rights, extension of standing invitation to all Special Procedure Mandate Holders and submission and successful defence of periodic reports to the Committee on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in 2017.

33. Nigeria has consistently cooperated with International Criminal Court on matters which she is being investigated and also in her several Country statements at the sessions of the Court. Nigeria's cooperation with the international human rights system of the United Nations is borne out of her strong belief and respect for the rule of law and human rights, and her firm commitment to the sanctity of fundamental freedoms at international and domestic levels, as ingrained in the objectives for the establishment of the United Nations international human rights system.

34. Nigeria has been cooperating with human rights mechanism such as the extension of standing invitation to all Special Procedure Mandate Holders, who seeks special visit to Nigeria. During the period under review, a number of Special Procedure Mandate Holders had visited Nigeria. These includes: the Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues, Special Rapporteur on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Pornography, Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, Special Rapporteur on Mental and Physical Health, as well as the Special Rapporteur on Internally Displaced Persons. Furthermore, Nigeria is currently processing requests from about seven Special Procedure Mandate Holders who have indicated interests to visit Nigeria. The Government is working stridently to ensure a successful visit by these mandate holders. Nigeria has also submitted its periodic reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and successfully defended them in 2017. The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) cooperated with the Global Alliance for National Human Rights Institutions (GHANRI) for re- accreditation process and was re-graded "A".

Recommendation 135.44: Ensure the implementation of the 2011 EU observation mission recommendations concerning the equal political participation by providing assistance to IDPs

35. Government has initiated the process of domesticating the following International Treaties ratified by Nigeria:

(a) The United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees;

(b) The Protocol to the Status of Refugees;

(c) The OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa;

(d) The African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa; and

(e) The International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

36. Government ensured that the internally displaced persons were granted equal political participation by providing polling booths at all IDP Camps during the 2015 General Elections. On the protection and promotion of the rights of vulnerable person such as the minorities, children women, older persons, IDPs, human rights defenders, refugees and prisoners, Government has been providing protection and assistance with the support of development partners.

Recommendation 135.44: Ensure prosecution of people involved in election violence

37. Incidences of election violence before, during and after the 2015 elections were investigated and perpetrators were prosecuted. The National Human Rights Commission also issued a pre-election report and advisory on violence in Nigeria's 2015 general elections. This election advisory indicated instances where criminal responsibility could arise either through campaign activities or hate speech and warned all parties to exercise caution during and after the elections. The advisory also included recommendations to political parties, the government, the Electoral Commission, security forces, judiciary, media, religious and faith communities, the civil society and other relevant members of the international community.

Recommendations 135.45, 46, 47: Adopt legislative and administrative measures to eliminate harmful cultural practices that hamper the realisation of human rights

38. Section 34 (1) (a) of the Constitution protects the dignity of human person by stating that every individual is entitled to respect to the dignity of his or her person and accordingly no person shall be subjected to inhuman or degrading treatment. In addition, the following legislative measures aim at combating harmful cultural practices.

Legislative measures

(a) Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Act 2015;

(b) Prohibition of child marriage and child betrothal under Sections 21 and 22 of the Child Rights Act 2003;

(c) Prohibition of tattoos and skin marks under Section 24 of the Child Rights Act;

(d) Prohibition of Child trafficking by the Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Law Enforcement and Administration Act 2015;

(e) Anambra state Gender and Equal Opportunities Law, 2007;

(f) Cross River State Law to Prohibit Girl-Child Marriages and Female Genital Circumcision or Genital Mutilation, 2009;

(g) Ekiti State Gender Based Violence (Prohibition) Law 2011;

(h) Imo State Gender and Equal Opportunities Law No 7 of 2007;

(i) Lagos State Protection Against Domestic Violence Law 2007;

(j) Cross River State Law to Prohibit Girl-Child Marriages and Female Genital Circumcision or Genital Mutilation in Cross River State, 2000;

(k) Rivers State Dehumanizing and Harmful Traditional Practices Law, 2003;

(l) Edo State Law on Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) 2000.

Recommendations 135.48, 50: Ensure that training of military, law enforcement officials and civil servants include human rights components in line with the world programme for human rights education

39. Human rights curricular have been introduced in the training institutions of the various armed forces, the Nigerian Police Force and other law enforcement agencies in order to inculcate in the trainees the universal human rights values. Government has organized and will continue to organize human rights education and training for police and

military officers to sensitize them on human rights issues through the National Human Rights Commission.

Recommendations 135.49, 52, 83–89, 92–96, 166: Ensure protection of the rights of children

40. Chapter IV of the Constitution guarantees to all Nigerians fundamental rights. Further, section 17 (3) (f) of the Constitution provides that Government shall direct its policy towards ensuring that children are protected. Government domesticated the Convention on the Rights of the Child as the Child Rights Act. Nigeria enacted the Child Rights Act (Enforcement Procedures) Rules, 2015 for the enforcement of child rights in the Family Courts. Other interventions being implemented by Government to ensure the protection of the right of the child include:

(a) The Home Grown School Feeding Program (HGSFP) – Program is aimed at increasing the enrolment and completion rate at primary school level. Currently 5.5 million primary school pupils are beneficiaries. The programme has also resulted in improving nutrition and health of the pupils;

(b) A legislation that prohibits the use of children in armed forces and in armed conflict. Section 34 of the Child Rights Act prohibits the use or recruitment of children into the Army or the use of children in any armed conflict. Sections 30-33 of the Child Rights Act also prohibit the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography;

(c) the "Year of Action to End Violence against Children in Nigeria" 2015-2016;

(d) The Launch of a Campaign to End Child Marriage in Nigeria and a National Strategy to End Child Marriage in Nigeria 2017-2021.

Recommendations 135.51, 129, 134, 144–157, 159: Further develop the education sector

41. Section 18 (1) and (3) of the Constitution mandates Government to direct its policy towards ensuring that there are equal and adequate educational opportunities at all levels.The Government has scaled up efforts to provide qualitative and accessible education for all. Free basic education is provided for all children in public schools up to the junior secondary schools while affordable education is provided for senior secondary and tertiary education.

42. Governments put in place legislative and policy frameworks to develop the education sector. The legislative and policy frameworks include the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999, Universal Basic Education (UBE) Act 2004, Child's Right Act 2003 /Child Rights Law of states and Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFUND), the National Policy on Education (Revised 6th edition), National Policy on Education, 6th edition, 2013, Training Manual on Adaptation and Implementation of Inclusive Education in Nigeria, 2010, A Strategic Framework for the Revitalization of Adult and Youth Literacy in Nigeria, 2012, National Child Policy 2007; National Policy for Integrated Early Childhood Development in Nigeria (2007);National Minimum Standard for Early Child Care Centres in Nigeria (2007);National Gender Policy on Education 2007; National Framework on Girls' and Women Education, 2012;Guidelines for Implementing National Policy on Gender in Basic Education, 2007 and National Policy on Gender in Basic Education, 2007 - Gender Education Desk, 2011.

43. Further, Government is implementing some programmes to develop the education sector. The programmes include revitalisation of the Adult and Youth Literacy (RAYL) Programme, 2016. A total of 5,101,719 (5.1 million) learners enrolled in the programme between 2013 and 2015 in 146 focused local government areas. About 4.5 million (4,589,637) of them have been made literate, and 4,807 facilitators were also graduated. A total of $6.4 million dollars was made available for the project by the Federal Government, aimed at reducing illiteracy level in Nigeria and building a critical mass of educators for

literacy and life skills acquisition. Governments established and equipped Community Learning Centres in 13 States.

44. The sum of N42, 205,872,257.88 UBE Matching Grant was disbursed to 26 states and FCT. The sum of N851, 502,975.66 special Education Grant was disbursed to 23 states and private Providers of special Basic Education and 2,220,000,000.00 of teacher Professional Development Fund to 33 states and FCT. A total of 538 schools across the country have received support through direct intervention. In each school, two blocks of two classrooms with twenty pieces of furniture, a head teacher's office and store have been provided.

45. Government has provided N2.5b for improving Special Education. Also, Government is partnering with notable development partners in the North East presidential Initiative to rebuild and restore normal academic activities in the region.

46. Under the safe School Initiative, Government has successfully transferred 2,274 out of 2,400 internally displaced children from Adamawa, Borno and Yobe to 43 Federal Government Colleges. Government has registered 200,000 IDP children in double shift school system, recruited 554 teachers, procured and distributed 112 containerized classrooms to the various IDP Camps in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe states.

47. Government has invested over N7b into the UBE Professional Teacher Development Programme, culminating in the training of 31,520 teachers across the States of the Federation.

48. Copies of the revised Basic Education with 34 trade Subjects and the new Senior Secondary Education curricula were distributed to schools nationwide and the e-curriculum launched to increase easy access to the document. As part of government's effort in improving teacher capacity and professional development, 800 graduates' teachers were trained in teaching pedagogy and 813 students graduated with post Graduate Diploma in Education in affiliation with National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN).

49. At basic Education level, massive monitoring of projects including the Almajiri schools has been carried out. Schools for the girl-child under construction are almost 90% completed. Within the framework of promoting non-formal education, 32 schools for the nomads have been rehabilitated and three vocational schools were established.

50. Government has built and furnished 44 e-libraries building in 44 Federal Government Colleges to felicitate teaching/learning and reading culture in students during the period under review.

51. The joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB) has upgraded all Computer Based Test Centres to a minimum of 250 carrying capacity and successfully automated change of course/institution, Printing of admission letter, printing of result slip and correction of data. Also 20, Braille-note Apex Computer for visually impaired candidates were procured to enable them participates fully in UTME, with minimal stress. As a result of these innovations, Jamb has successfully conducted the unified Matriculation (UTME) within the period under review with minimal problems.

52. To improve Technical and Vocational Education and training (TVET), teachers' Assessment Guide/Instructional materials to aid the teaching of the new curriculum in Technical and vocational education (TVE) for the attainment of sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was developed. National Business and Technical Examination Board (NABTEB) e-learning center through Public-private-Partnerships has been completed and is functional. Scanners, Braille Machines and books for examination purposes such as capturing of objective scores for candidates and physically challenged learners were purchased. Government carried out accreditation of 487 programmes in 51 Technical, Vocational Entrepreneurial institutions.

Recommendations 135.51, 129, 134–143, 158: Further develop the health sector

53. Nigeria is committed to promoting and protecting the rights of Nigerian to basic health and welfare through legislative, policy, strategic and administrative measures. In addition to the Constitution, Government has put in place the following legislative and policy measures; the National Health Act No. 8, 2014, National Tobacco Control Act 2015, HIV/AIDS (Anti-Discrimination) Act 2014, The National Agency for the Control of AIDS (Establishment) Act No.2 2007. Nigeria is a party to the UN Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development Goals, which includes the right to health. The National Health Policy 2016 aims at strengthening the national health system in order to provide effective, efficient, quality, accessible and affordable health services, as well as adequate primary, secondary and tertiary healthcare services for Nigerians.

54. Government has the developed the National Strategic Health Development Plan (NSHDP) 2010-2015. Since the plans' development and subsequent launch, they have been implemented to varying degrees at both the national and State levels as evident by the Joint Annual and the Mid-Term Reviews that were regular features of the plans and the End Term Evaluation which was carried out at the end of the implementation of the plan. The End Term Evaluation revealed that significant progress was made towards the expected targets but we could not meet the targets for most of the indicators in 2015. The only indicator of the first plan that was met in 2015 was the adolescent birth rate which dropped from 126/1000 to 74/1000 adolescent women.

55. The National Council on Health, the highest policy making body on health matters in Nigeria approved the extension of the implementation of the first plan to 2016. The second National Strategic Health Development Plan (NSHDP II) 2018-2022 is anchored on the New National Health Policy (2016) which has been developed taking into consideration Nigeria's aspiration to attain Universal Health Coverage (UHC) for all Nigerians, leveraging on functional 10,000 PHCs across the country, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) unfinished business and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Economic Growth and Recovery Plan (ERGP) 2017-2020.

56. The second plan takes a more comprehensive, inclusive and the holistic approach. It is organized along five strategic pillars; (i) Enabled Environment for attainment of sector outcomes which focuses on Leadership and Governance, Community Participation and Partnership for Health; (ii) Increased Utilization of Essential Package of Health Care Services which covers RMNCAH and Nutrition, Communicable and Non-Communicable Diseases, Mental Health, Care of the Elderly, NTD's etc; (iii) Strengthened Health System for Delivery of Package of Essential Health Care Services which focuses on Human Resources, Health Information System, Medicines, Vaccines and other Technologies, Research etc; (iv) Protection from health emergencies and risks as well as (v) Increased Sustainable, predicable Financing and Risk Protection which only focus is Financing Health.

57. Further, to improve exclusive breast feeding rate, the Federal Ministry of Health is collaborating with Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment to fast track the implementation of paid extension of paid maternity entitlement from 16weeks to 18weeks and continue advocacy to 24weeks (which is 6months) in line with the resolution of the 59 National Council on Health Resolution.

58. Government is implementing task shifting and task sharing policy to ensure that health care providers are available in the rural and hard to reach areas. Government has demonstrated its commitment to universal health coverage by allocating, for the first time in Nigeria, 1% of the Consolidated Revenue Fund towards the funding of key health initiatives, in compliance with the National Health Act in the 2018 Budget.

Recommendations 135.53, 54: Ensure progress towards the promotion of human rights

59. Since August, 2015 the National Human Rights Commission has been holding regular civil-military dialogue. The objectives of the Dialogue include:

(a) Improving awareness of respect for human rights by the armed forces;

(b) Prevention of human rights violations by the armed forces during internal security operations;

(c) Speedy investigation and resolution of allegation of human rights violations by military personnel including holding perpetrators accountable;

(d) Mainstreaming respect for human rights in military operations;

(e) Providing a sustainable platform for national and international human rights organizations to constructively engage the Nigerian armed forces.

Recommendations 135.55, 60–63: Enhance gender equality and empowerment of women

60. Section 42 (1) of the Constitution prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender by stating that a citizen of Nigeria of a particular sex. Similarly, section 17 (3) (e) of the Constitution provides that there is equal pay for equal work without discrimination on account of sex, or on any other ground. The Gender and Equal Opportunities Bill seeks to ensure equal opportunities and treatment of women and men.

Recommendation 135.56: Ensure implementation of the national action plan on the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 to involve women in peace process

61. Government has developed and published the National Action Plan for the implementation of the UN security Council Resolution 1325 and related resolutions. The National Action Plan (NAP) resonances Government's commitments as well as its responsibilities in ensuring the security of women and enhancing their active and direct participation in identifying early warning, conflict prevention, peace building and post conflict remedy. NAP provides a road map for the implementation of the UNSCR 1325.

Recommendations 135.57–59: Adopt measures to improve the socio-economic conditions of women

62. The Government of Nigeria is committed to guaranteeing equal access to political, social and economic opportunities for women and men. Consequently, government has established the lead national and state gender machineries; the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development and Ministries of Women Affairs in the 36 States and the Federal Capital Territory. Government has also embarked on numerous programmes to boost women's economic empowerment. Some of these are: Business Development Fund for Women (BUDFOW) and National Women Empowerment Fund.

63. The Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, in partnership with the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) and the Bank of Industry (BOI) have provided financial empowerment to women through their various initiatives, such as Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Fund as well as the Agricultural Financing Scheme.

Recommendations 135.56, 64–67, 105, 97–100: Step up action to prevent violence and discrimination against women

64. Section 42 of the Constitution guarantees and protects the rights of women from discrimination. Under section 46 (1) of the Constitution, women who are victims of violence and discrimination may apply to a High Court for redress by way of fundamental rights enforcement proceedings in the event of the application of any law that allows violence and discrimination against them. In addition, government enacted the Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Act.

65. The Act seeks to eliminate violence in private and public life, prohibit all forms of violence including physical, sexual, psychological, domestic, harmful traditional practices, discriminations against persons and to provide maximum protection and effective remedies for victims and punishment of offenders. Under the ACJA, women can now stand as sureties for any applicant or defendant for the purpose of admitting the person to bail. Hitherto this was not possible.

Recommendations 135.67, 82, 122–128: Adopt measures to eliminate religious intolerance and hatred

66. The Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution (IPCR) was established by the FGN primarily as a research Institute, national peace building and conflict management think-tank and policy adviser with broad mandate under Section 8 of the IPCR (Establishment) Act, 2007 on peace and conflict related subjects in Nigeria and Africa. The Institute's work is geared towards the promotion of human rights in conflict situation through research, peace intervention and advocacy, and collaboration especially in northeast Nigeria. The IPCR is concerned with the conditions of vulnerable groups in conflict situation such as the women and children that are mostly victims, whether displaced from their communities, maimed, abducted, forced as cooks, porters, suicide bombers, child soldiers, sex slaves, 'wives' etc. some other initiative of the institute include:

(a) The Institute is collaborating with relevant national and international institutions to enhance the capacities of religious and community leaders on cultural and religious harmony. The Institute has initiated and convened two separate interfaith dialogue meetings for religious leaders across the country in Kaduna. Recently, the Institute convened two separate intra-religious dialogue sessions for Muslim and Christian leaders, and also organized a National Interreligious Conference for leaders across the country in Abuja. There are other interfaith engagements for women and youth religious leaders that the Institute implemented in partnership with other organizations such as the African Council of Religious Leaders, Religion for Peace, ECOWAS and the African Union (AU);

(b) In furtherance of efforts towards the promotion of human rights in the Institute is activated the Infrastructure for Peace (I4P), brought together policy formulators and implementers as a national platform for understanding the socio-economic, political and cultural contexts of peace and security trends in the country. This is important because human rights violations in the country arose as a result of socio-economic, political and cultural dynamics at play within the society.

Recommendations 135.68–72, 170: Put in place necessary steps to prevent extra-judicial killings

67. Section 33 (1) of the Constitution guarantees the right to life. Similarly, the Penal and Criminal Codes prohibit extra-judicial killings. Consequently, Government has zero tolerance for any form of cruelty such as ill treatment and extra judicial killings. Security officers that have been found culpable irrespective of their position have been made to face the full weight of the law.

Recommendation 135.71: Adopt measures to hold security forces accountable for human rights violations

68. Section 46 (1) and (2) of the Constitution is a legislative measure to hold security forces accountable for human rights violation. The section states that any person who alleges that any of the provisions of this Chapter has been, is being or likely to be contravened in any State in relation to him may apply to a High Court in that State for redress.

69. To ensure respect for human rights by security forces, the federal government set up a Presidential Investigation Panel to investigate all alleged cases of human rights violations by the Nigerian military personnel.

70. The Panel was set up in August 2017 and had among others the following terms of reference:

(a) Review extant rules of engagement applicable in the Armed Forces of Nigeria and extent of compliance thereto;

(b) Investigate matters of conduct and discipline in the Armed Forces in local conflicts and insurgencies;

(c) Recommend means of preventing violation of international human rights and humanitarian law in conflict situations.

Recommendations 135.72–75, 121: Adopt measures to prevent torture and the use of force by security agents

71. Section 34 (1) of the Constitution prohibits torture in any form. Government enacted the Anti-Torture Act 2011 as amended in 2013. The Act prohibits torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment and punishment by law enforcement agents and provides punishment for perpetrators of such acts.

Recommendations 135.76-81, 170: Strengthen measures aimed at improving security in the country

72. Section 14 (1) (b) of the Constitution imposes obligation on Government by providing that the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of government. Government has embarked on several initiatives to reduce the menace of Boko Haram terrorism and insurgency in the country. There is 90% drop in the number of terrorism related deaths in Nigeria. More than 12,000 persons taken hostage by the insurgents including 106 abducted Chibok and the 113 Dapchi girls were freed.

73. Boko Haram insurgency has been largely curtailed. Civil authorities have been established in the areas affected by the insurgency. Significant efforts have also been made to protect internally displaced persons in camps across the north eastern part of the country. Several military operations are on-going in aid of civil authority for effective security maintenance of law and order in areas affected by Boko Haram insurgency.

Recommendations 135.90 and 91: Continue efforts aimed at preventing human trafficking

74. Government has established the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons. With the re-enactment of the Human Trafficking Law in 2015, NAPTIP is strengthened to deal with the scourge of Child Trafficking by carrying out sensitization programmes in Primary, Secondary and Tertiary Institutions. NAPTIP has been training and re-training the Nigeria Immigration Service, Nigeria Police Force, National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, Nigeria Customs Service, Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps, Federal Road Safety Commission, Department of State Security, National Intelligence

Agency, Office of the National Security Adviser, Lawyers and Judges to improve on the strategies for detecting and combating the crimes.

Recommendations 135.106–112: Improve conditions in detention facilities including the behaviour of police officers and how overcrowding in prisons is tackled

75. Nigeria is committed to maintaining the United Nations' Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners. The Nigerian Prisons and Correctional Service Bill currently undergoing legislative processes is geared towards addressing issues related to the physical conditions in Nigerian prisons, including overcrowding and physical abuse of prisoners.

76. The Nigerian prison services and other correctional facilities are being upgraded through the efforts of the Ministry of Interior. Effective Prison Reforms are being made by the present Administration to improve the existing facilities and structure including through the on-going exercise on prison decongestion. Government has also made it a policy to investigate and address all allegations of human rights abuses in our prison and correctional facilities. Nigeria is also committed to training and retraining of Prison officers in order to ensure that they adhere to minimum standard while attending to detainees.

77. The Federal Ministry of Justice has in collaboration with Civil Liberties Organisation (CLO) and other CSOs undertaken monitoring of police activities. Zonal and State Committees have been mandated to undertake "Ombudsman" review of complaints against the police. The State Governments are also making efforts to improve condition in the detention facilities. The Chief Judges of the Federal Capital Abuja and the 36 States of the federation do undertake prison visits. During such visits, prison inmates who have been unlawfully detained are released either unconditionally or on such terms as to guarantee their appearance.

78. The Nigerian Police Force established the Complaint Response Unit in November 2015 to address complaints of allege human rights abuse against police personnel. The Unit is domiciled in all States Commands and the Force Headquarters. The Force also created a human right desk in the force headquarters and all the 36 state commands to ensure that the rights of citizens are respected and complaints are promptly attended to and solved.

79. The force has also made it a policy to organise human rights education and training for all its personnel to sensitize them on human rights issues and to ensure that they respect and comply with such provisions in the course of their duties. A number of organisations have also supported the police with training on human rights issues. These organisations include the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), UK Department for International Development (DFID) and CLEEN Foundation. The Nigeria Police force has also trained its officers on the need to respect and implement the provisions of the Criminal Justice Act 2015.

80. The police force in partnership with the Legal Aid Council of Nigeria (LACON), The Rights Enforcement and Public Law Centre (REPLACE) and Open Society Justice Initiative (OSJI) launched the Police Duty Solicitor scheme (PDSS). The scheme ensures free legal services for arrested or detained persons in police formations.

Recommendations 135.113–120: Facilitate access to justice

81. Section 17 (1) (e) of the Constitution states that the independence, impartiality and integrity of courts of law, and easy accessibility thereto shall be secured and maintained. To fastrack the administration of criminal justice, the Administration of Criminal Justice Act, 2015 (ACJA) was enacted. The ACJA makes provisions for pre-trial remand on the orders of the court. This enables the court to supervise pre-trial detention in order to prevent arbitrariness and abuse by law enforcement agencies.

(a) Corruption and Financial Crimes Case Trial Monitoring Committee. This is a new committee set up by the Chief Justice of Nigeria early 2018 to monitor the trial of

corruption and financial crimes cases in various courts. This will enhance expeditious, diligent and transparent disposal of corruption and financial crimes cases by the courts;

(b) Special Panels of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal. Special Panels of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal were set up by the Chief Justice of Nigeria, which in a matter of months disposed of several corruption and financial crimes cases some of which had been pending in court for years;

(c) Practice Directions: Between 2013 and 2017, heads of various appellate courts and High Courts both at the Federal and State levels have issued Practice Directions to fast –track the trial and disposal of corruption and financial crimes cases. These are: the Supreme Court (Criminal Appeals) Practice Directions 2013; Court of Appeal (Fast Track) Practice Directions, 2014; Federal High Court Practice Directions, 2013 and the Practice Directions of the Federal Capital Territory, 2017;

(d) Justice Sector Reform: The reform initiatives embarked upon by the Federal Government in collaboration with the States and CSOs has resulted in the following outputs:

(i) The development and adoption of the national policy on Prosecutions, 2014 and its supplementary Code of Conduct for Prosecutors in Nigeria and Guidelines for Prosecutor;

(ii) The enactment of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act 2015.

(e) Trial of Boko Haram members. In July 2018, 113 members of Boko Haram were convicted, 111 were discharged and acquitted while 73 cases were adjourned for continuation of trial. In February, 2018, 331 cases were tried. Two hundred and five (205) of the members of the Boko Haram were convicted. A total of 526 suspects were discharged while 73 cases were adjourned. In October 2017, 45 members of the Boko Haram were convicted, 1669 were remanded while 468 were discharged.

Recommendation 135.115: take necessary measures to ensure that the Child Rights Act 2003 is incorporated into the legal system of states of the federation

82. The Child Rights Act 2003 is the only law in Nigeria that sets a minimum age of 18 years for marriage. So far 24 states out of 36 states have adopted the law; the states that are yet to adopt the law being in the Northeast and Northwest of the country. However the federal government through the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development is working with relevant child rights stakeholders including other ministries, departments and agencies of government, CSOs and faith based organisations, to ensure that states that are yet to adopt the law do so.

Recommendations 135.130–133: Continue efforts to guarantee access to adequate housing

83. Section 16 (2) of the Constitution provides that the State shall direct its policy towards ensuring that suitable and adequate shelter are provided for all citizens. Government is constructing 2,736 pilot scheme housing units in 33 states of the federation. Federal Government allocated N35 Billion Naira in the 2018 budget for National Mass Housing Programme. Further, Federal Mortgage Bank and Federal Housing Authority are Government institutions established with the purpose of providing housing needs of Nigerians. Additionally, the National Housing Fund Act established the National Housing Fund whose aim is to facilitate the mobilization of funds for the provisions of housing needs of Nigerians at affordable prices.

84. Government is also introducing an initiative to engage cooperative societies in national housing programme. In addition to the efforts by the Federal Government to guarantee access to adequate housing, the 36 States and Federal Capital Territory are implementing various housing schemes.

Recommendations 135.160–163: Ensure promotion and protection of the rights of vulnerable persons

85. Nigeria is a party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the African Charter on Human and People's Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, among others. In addition, a number of international instruments such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities (Minorities Declaration) are binding as customary international law.The Fundamental Human Rights (Enforcement Procedure) Rules, 2009 empowers the Courts to interpret and apply the human rights provisions of the Constitution and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights expansively and purposely with a view to advancing and realizing the rights and freedoms contained in them.

Recommendations 135.164-165: Adopt measures to protect the rights of ethnic and other minority

86. Government has produced Guiding Principles for the distribution of posts in the public service. The Guiding Principles deals exclusively with the distribution of jobs and posts, which provides for equal percentage of persons from each State of the country to occupy public positions at the national level. Furthermore, Government recognises that there is the need to mainstream gender into the labour force of the country particularly the traditional marginalised groups such as women and the physically challenged.

87. Section 14 (3) of the Constitution states that the composition of the Government of the Federation shall be carried out in a manner to reflect federal character, thereby ensuring that there is no predominance of persons from a few state, ethnic or other sections in the government. Section 14 (4) of the Constitution similarly protects the rights of minorities in the states by providing that the composition of the Government of a state or local government areas should be in a manner as to recognize the diversity of the people in the state or local government areas in order to promote a sense of belonging and loyalty among all the peoples. The Federal Character Commission has been active in driving this policy.

Recommendation 135.166: Adopt measures to promote the Migrant Workers Convention

88. Government has taken a major step in implementing Nigeria's commitment by initiating the process of domesticating the following International Treaties ratified by Nigeria:

(a) The United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees;

(b) The Protocol to the Status of Refugees;

(c) The OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa;

(d) The African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa; and

(e) The International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of their Families.

Recommendations 135.167–169: Continue to take measures to guarantee the right to sustainable development

89. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are the centrepiece of the current development agenda in Nigeria. In an effort to domesticate, integrate and mainstream the

SDG into the medium and long-term National Development plans for effective planning, adequate budgeting and overall successful implementation across the nation, the office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on Sustainable Development Goals is working assiduously in partnership with the Ministry of Budget and National Planning. Further, the office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on Sustainable Development Goals partnered with the National Bureau of Statistics and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and conducted a mapping exercise of existing SDGs related data and established baseline data which will be useful in benchmarking SDGs progress. The SDGs Office has undertaken a number of activities to provide strategic direction and impetus to the national commitment on the SDGs. These include but are not limited to:

(a) Development and Dissemination of the MDGs End-Point Report in collaboration with the UNDP, DFID, MDAs and other stakeholders;

(b) Development of the Country Transition Strategy to the SDGs;

(c) Development of Action Plan to guide SDGs implementation;

(d) Rollout of SDGs Needs Assessment and Costing Exercise in partnership with the Ministry of Budget and National Planning, the MDAs as well as the UNDP;

(e) Data Mapping and Determination of 126 Baseline SDGs Indicators to benchmark progress through partnership with the National Bureau of Statistics;

(f) Partnership Agreement with UNDP to mainstream the SDGs at subnational levels;

(g) Establishment of institutional mechanisms such as the Presidential Council on SDGs, SDGs Committees in both chambers of the National Assembly, Inter-Ministerial Committee for MDAs coordination and a subnational partnership framework through the Conditional Grants Scheme;

(h) Multi-Stakeholder engagement mechanisms such as the Private Sector Advisory Group, Donors' Partnership Forum on SDGs, Civil Society Strategy Group on SDGs, amongst others; and

(i) Mobilization of influencers such as SDGs Ambassadors and SDGs Champions for SDGs advocacy.

Recommendation 135.11: Harmonisation of the legal system of the country

90. Legal pluralism is an overarching principle of the Nigerian legal system. It enables the co-existence of a number of legal systems within the Nigerian territory, subject to the rules for resolving conflict and inconsistency. It has allowed the received English law, customary law and Islamic law to subsist side by side. The Federal and State Governments are determined to give due recognition and respect to the pluralistic character of the Nigerian legal system and support the even development and strengthening of the system of administration justice, with due regard to its plural character, as provided by the Constitution. To this effect, the Nigeria Law Reform Commission, State Law Reform Commissions and other justice reform bodies have continued to place in their law reform agenda a review and strengthening of the systems for the administration of Islamic law and customary law, and propose appropriate legislation, policies and other interventions for improvement.

91. The Federal Government in compliance with the constitutional requirement in appointing of Justices of the Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court does include adequate number of judges learned in Islamic and customary law. In the same vein, the Governments of States where High courts administer Islamic and customary laws will take into account the need for judges learned in these two systems of law to be included in the appointment of High court judges. Government is determined to give Islamic law and customary law and the courts that administer them commensurate regard and consideration in the implementation of the various interventions adopted through the National Policy on Justice

without any discrimination, and with due regard to the plural components of the legal system.

Recommendations 135.171-172: Mainstream human rights standard in counter-terrorism actions

92. In compliance with the First Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Conflicts in the Field, Second Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked Members of the Armed Forces at Sea, Third Geneva Convention Relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War, Fourth Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as Amended), Nigerian Army Handbook on Domestic and international Laws Guiding the Conduct of Operations and the Nigerian Army Policy on Human Rights 2016 and in fulfilment of his command responsibility to officers and men of the NA, as well as to give effect to the directives from the President and Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Chief of Army Staff issued the Chief of Army Staff's Policy Directive to commanders at all levels to prevent violations and improve compliance with Nigeria's domestic and international laws guiding the conduct of operations by Nigerian Army personnel.

93. The policy directives require all personnel of the Nigerian Army to comply with the principles and spirit of the International Human Rights Law during all Internal Security operations and other Military Assistance to Civil Authorities operations that the Nigerian Army may be deployed to in accordance with sections 217(2) a, b, c, d, and 218(3) of CFRN 1999 (as Amended).

94. Furthermore, in compliance with the Chief of Army Staff Policy Directive on Nigerian Army Comprehensive Programme to improve Compliance with Domestic and international Laws Guiding the Conduct of Operations 2018, Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999, Nigerian Army Handbook on Domestic and International Laws Guiding the Conduct of Operations, 2018 and the Terrorism Prevention Amendment Act, 2013, the Chief of Army Staff issued the Chief of Army Staff Directive on Standing Rules of Engagement and Standing Rules for the Use of Force for the Nigerian Army. The Chief of Army Staff Directive on Standing Rules of Engagement and Standing Rules for the Use of Force for the Nigerian Army was issued in furtherance of the Presidential Directive issued by the President and Commander-in- Chief on 25 May 2015 during his inauguration to overhaul the Rules of Engagement to avoid human rights violations in operations.

Recommendation 135.15: On the protection of persons with disabilities

95. A National Disability Bill, which seeks to protect the rights of persons with disabilities and establish a National Disabilities Commission, is currently pending in the National Assembly. The National Human Rights Commission has a disability desk and has carried out many significant initiatives to address disability issues, including working with CSOs in this area and have employed a handful of persons living with disability. The Government of Plateau State has established the Plateau State Disability Rights Commission. The Commission has been training Legislators and Government officials on the rights of People with Disabilities.

Recommendation135.126: Continue strengthening the role of the Inter-Religious Council in order to deepen the ethical values and fight against the moral corruption so that extreme and radical ideologies are eradicated from the society

96. The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC unveiled an Inter-Faith Anti-Corruption Preaching and Teaching Manual in 2014 as part of its efforts to combat corruption in the country. The Commission came to the unassailable conclusion that

successfully combating corruption and financial crimes would take more than enforcement of laws. It was obvious that because Nigeria is deeply religious country, one of those groups that would have the most far-reaching and sustained impact on our people is the faith-based group.

97. Realizing the need to harness critical stakeholders' inputs into the anti-graft campaign, the EFCC reached out to organized and semi-formal groups, which include students and women bodies, town unions and age grade groups, professional and social associations, religious bodies and other special interest associations. The manual, which focuses on utilizing the Muslim and Christian Platforms to engage the public in fighting corruption, is the outcome of a National Inter-faith Forum on Corruption organized by the Commission.

IV. Challenges in the promotion and protection of human rights in Nigeria

98. The challenges contained in the second cycle UPR report remain the same, though the current federal and state governments are working very hard to overcome these challenges and several reforms and initiatives are yielding positive results. Some of the main challenges are:

(a) Plural nature and size of the country: the multi-ethnic, multi-cultural and multi-religious nature of Nigeria creates practical difficulties for the harmonization of views, strategies and programmes for the promotion and protection of human rights in the country;

(b) Legal System: the legal system in Nigeria is pluralistic and composed of customary law, received English law, legislation and Sharia law. Majority of Nigerians conduct their personal activities in accordance with and subject to customary and Islamic personal law. These laws have great impact in areas such as marriage, inheritance and traditional authorities. Some of the customary norms are in conflict with human rights standards. It would take a long time before government efforts in raising public awareness among the people to embrace tolerance, have liberal disposition on customary matters and respect legislation and constitutional provisions aimed at reforms of cultural behaviour to yield the desired result;

(c) Although the current administration in the country has introduced many reforms to tackle the menace of corruption in public and private sectors of the economy, the menace is still deeply rooted in the society. Corrupt tendencies pose serious threat to the enjoyment and realization of human rights as resources that would have been available to improve the standard of living of citizens found their way into private hands. Government is however committed to wipe out corrupt behaviours in the public and private spheres of our national life;

(d) Internal security is becoming more challenging owing to the proliferation of organized criminal syndicates across the country. The incidence of blue-collar crimes and transnational criminality in the country is greatly affecting the realization of human rights. Government is however not resting on its oars to ensure prevention and detection of crimes and holding perpetrators accountable in accordance with respect for rule of law;

(e) Difficulties in breaking through entrenched mind set on harmful traditional practices affecting the human rights of women and children.

V. Request for technical assistance

99. To improve on its commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights in a sustained manner, Nigeria requires technical assistance from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in the following areas:

(a) Development and application of human rights indicators to assess effective implementation of national and international human rights obligations of Nigeria;

(b) Training of staff of Federal and State Ministries of Justice and Federal Ministry of Budget and National Planning using the Human Rights Indicators;

(c) Capacity development of staff of relevant Federal and State institutions in applying rights based approach in the formulation and implementation of development policies and programmes including the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and African Union Agenda 2063;

(d) Training of security and other relevant institutions in mainstreaming human rights standards in counter-terrorism strategy. This include development and production of appropriate tools;

(e) Institutional and capacity development of staff of the Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution (IPCR) and other relevant government departments to develop appropriate tools for research and mainstreaming human rights based approach in peace building and reconciliation;

(f) Assistance in the development of appropriate truth and reconciliation mechanisms to address increasing divisive trend in the country and to hold perpetrators of systematic violation of human rights accountable.

100. Nigeria will further articulate these requests and submit them to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights for appropriate action.

VI. Conclusion

101. The Government of Nigeria is committed to the promotion and protection of human rights not only in Nigeria but in the world as a whole. This informed its cooperation with other countries in Africa and across the globe to enhance global realization of human rights. The Government remains determined to improve the well-being of its citizens, especially the vulnerable including women and children. It sees the promotion and protection of human rights as a continuous process. Various initiatives of government since the last review to date have clearly shown the determination of Nigeria to continue to improve on the enjoyment of human rights in the country.

102. Nigeria is fully committed to its obligations under the human rights instruments it has ratified and will continue to work hard to ensure that this translate into better living conditions and sustainable development in the country. The Federal Government believes that respect for human rights provides the foundation for enduring peace and social harmony.